

Message Text

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15

ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6073

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP: (KEMP, G./MANTEL, R./BRYEN, S.)

SUBJ: STAFFDEL KEMP/MANTEL/BRYEN

REF: STATE 038934

1. STAFFDEL CONCLUDED HEAVILY SCHEDULED TWO-WEEK VISIT MARCH 16. AFTER AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI HAD CABLED MINISTRY OF COURT RE VISIT OF STAFFDEL, THEY WERE ACCORDED VIP HOSPITALITY BY IRANIANS. ONE WEEK-LONG VISIT TO ISFAHAN, ABADAN, BUSHIRE, BANDAR ABBAS, CHAH BAHAR, AND SHIRAZ, STAFFDEL WAS EVERYWHERE MET AND ESCORTED BY SENIOR IRANIAN MILITARY COMMANDERS, GENERALLY WITH HONOR GUARDS. ALL EXPENSES WERE PAID BY HOSTS WHO ALSO ARRANGED BRIEFINGS AND DAILY OFFICIAL LUNCHEES, DINNERS OR RECEPTIONS. GROUP HAD HELICOPTER TOURS IN ISFAHAN AND BANDAR ABBAS AND BOAT RIDE IN KHORRAMSHAHR. TWO F-5S WERE SCRAMBLED AT BUSHIRE FOR SIMULATED AA DEMONSTRATION. GIFTS WERE PRESENTED AT EACH STOP. IN TEHRAN STAFFDEL MET WITH GENERAL TOUFANIAN (CAVIAR LUNCH AND TOUR OF ARMAMENTS PLANT) AND HAD TALKS WITH PARVIZ RADJI (ASSISTANT TO PRIME MINISTER), MINISTER MADAVI (RASTAKHIZ PARTY), GOLAMREZA AFRAMI (LITERACY CORPS), SHARAM CHUBIN (INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS), AND ISRAELI MISSION CHIEF LUBRANI. IN ADDITION MEMBERS HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY, DEFREP AND ARMISH-MAAG OFFICIALS AND WERE PROMISED LARGE NUMBER OF BRIEFING PAPERS.

2. DURING COURSE OF VISIT, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT MAIN THRUST OF STAFFDEL INTEREST WASNOT SO MUCH WISDOM OF U.S. ARMS SALES

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POLICY IN IRAN, BUT MECHANISMS FOR DECISION-MAKING WITHHN USG.

MEMBERS ASKED MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT SIZE OF US POPULATION IN IRAN
AND PROSPECTIVE DURATION OF US INVOLVEMENT HERE THROUGH MILITARY
AND CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE IN DEFENSE PROGRAMS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT
STAFFDEL WILL PURSUE THESE INTERESTS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESENT
AND FORMER USG OFFICIALS ON RETURN TO US.
HELMS

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